

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Paragraphs 0019, 0033, and 0043 of the previously filed substitute specification have been amended in order to overcome the objections raised on page 2 of the Official action. As regards the first objection, relating to the claims being referenced throughout the specification, all but one of those references were deleted in the substitute specification filed on November 17, 2003; the one reference that was missed has now been deleted from paragraph 0019.

Applicant has accepted the examiner's suggestion made on page 4 under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter" to incorporate claims 29 and 32 into claims 27 and 31, respectively, thereby obviating the need for an election of species.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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